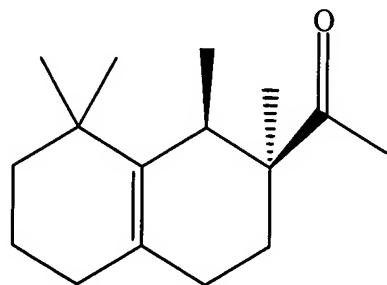


In the Claims:

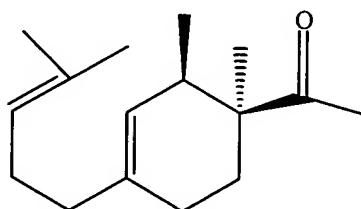
- 1.(presently amended) A process for the preparation of methylaluminium dichloride comprising ~~by~~ the steps of:
  - (i) reacting, reacting by heating a material of the formula
$$R_3Al_2X_3,$$
where R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and
  - (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating, to give a crude reaction product; and
  - (iii) optionally if desired, obtaining methylaluminium dichloride from this crude reaction product.
2. (presently amended) A process method according to claim 1, in which the material of the formula R<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>X<sub>3</sub> is selected from methylaluminium sesquiodide and ethylaluminium sesquibromide.
3. (presently amended) A process method according to claim 1 or claim 2, in which the material of the formula R<sub>3</sub>Al<sub>2</sub>X<sub>3</sub> is a crude mixture of unreacted raw materials and product resulting from the preparation method described by Grosse and Mativy in *J.Org.Chem.* 5, 106 (1940).
- 4.(presently amended) A process method according to claim 1 ~~any one of claims 1-3~~, in which the metallic aluminium is particulate metallic aluminium, preferably aluminium gritty.

5.(currently amended)      Formula I



I

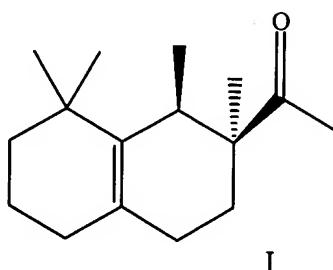
comprising the addition of a compound of Formula II



II

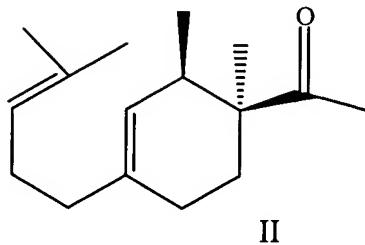
to the crude reaction product of a reaction according to Claim 1.

6. (currently amended)      Formula I



I

by cyclisation of a compound of Formula II



II

of a reaction mixture according to prepared by the steps of:

- (i) reacting by heating a material of the formula



where R is C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub> alkyl and X is selected from bromine and iodine with an aluminium-containing material selected from metallic aluminium and a mixture of metallic aluminium and aluminium trichloride in an atmosphere of methyl chloride, with the proviso that when R is methyl and X is iodine, the aluminium-containing material is a mixture of aluminium and aluminium trichloride; and

- (ii) when the aluminium-containing material is metallic aluminium, adding aluminium trichloride to this reaction mixture and heating.